

MR. HILL: Thank you. **Adam Hill** from the Board of Supervisors here in San Luis Obispo County, and while I appreciate you coming here to have this public hearing, at no point has there been any outreach to my office by DOGGR or by the Water Board. And as you can tell by the public scrutiny that this has received, that that would be appreciated from our State partners. So I would like to express some of the concerns on the process that we have heard from our constituents, and that has increased as public scrutiny has increased as well.

So I'm reserving any comments or judgment on the project itself and focusing specifically on the review process. And of course, the overall concern

is -- that all of my constituents had, in a lot of

this, is highly technical information, including the presentation, is the concern of the quality of water in neighboring wells used for higher beneficial purposes. So on to the process. It looks like the scientific study that the application is based on was commissioned or provided by the applicant. With a decision of this magnitude, I would think that the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources would commission their own consultants. If we were to let every applicant commission their own consultants, we would probably never have any project that was ever recommended for anything but approval.

The information page on the DOGGR website, in addition to the study provided by the applicant only provides a one-page summary analysis and the Water Board, a two-page letter, both agreeing to move forward with the exemption due to the information provided by the applicant. It does not provide any actual analysis from DOGGR or the Water Board staff regarding a large policy decision that has potential to affect our most precious resource right now, which is our groundwater.

There is no proof of peer review of the

information provided. There is -- perhaps, you know, this is to be clarified. If there has been extensive review by both agencies and anything other than the summary letters that have been provided, we certainly would like to see that.

The aquifer exemption matrix points out that only three other exemptions in this state currently exist. So essentially this is a substantial process for the agency to stand behind without getting

or without providing the information from any third-party experts.

This is a substantial process for the agency to stand behind without getting third-party experts to conduct their own studies and their own review. And these are things that we would like to have more information for from whether it be on your websites that are provided. We are also, of course, encouraging you to please reach out to the elected officials in my area.

In my area, I also have a nuclear power plant and our State partners and general partners, don't fail to let us know when there are going to be hearings and if there is going to be a process that will potentially affect our constituents. And finally, the one EIR process question

that did come up repeatedly, and I know this is scheduled to come back before our planning commission again, is have the conditions changed since the EIR was completed due to the conditions that have come about because of this severe drought?

Probably, I would say two-thirds of the questions that we get on anything these days has to do with the impact on water. The impact the drought has had on all of us. So those are the related questions on the process that we're hoping to have addressed, if not today, then certainly in your subsequent information. Thank you.